

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Literary Council of Northern Virginia and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 2020 LCNV Recognition Celebration. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ED  
HELTON

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2020*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my congratulations to a gifted educator, great team builder, loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend of longstanding, Dr. Ed Helton. Dr. Helton will retire from Columbus State University (CSU) on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, after a distinguished career that culminated in his selection as Interim Chief of Staff for the University.

Dr. Ed Helton earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and English and a Master of Arts in Philosophy and Religion from Samford University, and a Doctor of Divinity from Judson College. He has been a student of leadership development and communication throughout his career. In addition to his educational achievements, Dr. Helton completed the Executive Education course, The Art and Practice of Leadership Development, at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in May of 2013. And in March 2015, he attended Minds at Work's Immunity to Change (ITC) instrument training in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For almost two decades, Dr. Helton has been a highly trusted leader in the higher education sector. He built quite an impressive career, which began in 2002 when he became an Adjunct Professor in Philosophy at CSU. In 2004, in addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Helton started serving as a consultant with CSU's Leadership Institute, where he became instrumental in promoting the Institute. In May 2005, he assumed the position as Director of the Leadership Institute at the Cunningham Center for Leadership Development. Dr. Helton played an integral part in the Jim Blanchard Leadership Forum that brought distinguished leaders to Columbus, Georgia such as Former President George W. Bush, Former First Lady Laura Bush, Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Dallas Mavericks Owner Mark Cuban, and Dr. Mae Jemison, among others.

A man of many talents, Dr. Helton is certified by several leadership organizations that qualifies him as an expert on team building, conflict resolution, and human behavior. Ed is also an ordained minister whose spiritual insights inform his extraordinary ability to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the human character. He has also lent his time and talents to serve as a consultant and keynote speaker for a wide range of other organizations.

Winston Churchill once said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Dr. Ed Helton has given so much to Columbus State University, his community, his friends, and most importantly, his God. Ed has cast a wide net in his service to

humankind, and the world is a better place because of his work.

Ed has accomplished much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Lana, and his son, Brett.

On a personal note, Ed has had a significant impact on my life, both personally and professionally. He has offered sage advice and counsel as a consultant and has often been a sounding board for me when grappling with thorny issues. His ability to balance critique and encouragement in a way that is constructive in achieving a positive outcome is exceptional. I will be forever grateful for his professional guidance and his friendship.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Dr. Ed Helton upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career in Higher Education Administration and his continued service to humanity.

ROB STRAIN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Rob Strain, a friend and constituent who is retiring as President of Ball Aerospace headquartered in Colorado.

Rob first joined Ball Aerospace in 2012 after serving as Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. At Goddard, Rob's strong oversight and leadership skills contributed to the success of more than 13 missions as he was able to blend technical and programmatic solutions while under intense Congressional and agency scrutiny. Rob has a hands-on managerial style and collaborative nature which makes him a critical contributor on mission teams and not just the person in charge.

Rob helped devise and execute a smooth transition from the flawed tri-agency NPOESS program for the Nation's next generation polar weather satellites to the NASA-NOAA Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) based at Goddard to ensure the continuity of these critical weather satellite observations. The significance of his thoughtful, effective leadership during the program's transition cannot be overstated.

Rob also served a key role for the final Space Shuttle servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope. The mission encountered a major programmatic challenge from a pre-launch computer failure one month before the scheduled launch. In this "failure is not an option" moment, Rob brought together the government and industry expertise to fix the problem, ensured the team stayed on track, and minimized schedule impacts. The result was a successful servicing mission, extending Hubble's incredible contributions to our scientific community as we approach 31 years in service.

Prior to joining NASA, Rob led the Space Department of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where he was integral to the successful development, launch and oper-

ations of the New Horizons spacecraft to Pluto. New Horizons overcame numerous technical and instrument availability issues to meet an extremely tight planetary launch window and successfully flew by Pluto in 2015.

Through his career at Ball Aerospace, Rob has been a strong champion for diversity and inclusion across his teams and empowering all members of the team to be themselves and contribute to the success of the business and the mission. Despite the success Rob has achieved in his career, he remains an incredibly approachable and humble person. Rob remains accessible to individuals at all career levels, actively seeking their input and making them feel valued.

I will miss Rob, for his dry sense of humor which often brought levity to serious meetings and tense situations. I thank him for his friendship and his work on behalf of the aerospace community, Colorado and the Nation. I wish him the best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND THE 2020 LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2020*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and their continued dedication to the elimination of impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington metropolitan area.

WRAP is a public-private partnership that works with law enforcement, community stakeholders, and advocacy groups in Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. Through educational and innovative public programs, WRAP is credited with keeping Washington area alcohol related death rates historically below the national average. Programs and resources include Youth Outreach, Adult Outreach, and Public Education programs designed to educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. WRAP offers unique programs such as the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, where individuals who are impaired can request a free safe ride home.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their lives in alcohol-related car crashes; 60 percent of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased to 9,878. WRAP continues to work tirelessly to ensure these statistics are not repeated. In fiscal year 2020, WRAP was successful in removing 2,243 potential drunk drivers from Greater Washington's roadways during only two, pre-COVID WRAP SoberRide campaigns. WRAP also experienced a record level of ridership for Halloween which was the highest in Sober Ride's 27-year history. In addition, WRAP reached the "80,000-served" level of total ridership for its Sober Ride program; in fact, total